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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6453

BILL NUMBER: SB 308

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 11, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Determination of Graduation Rate.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Sipes

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a student whose individualized education program does not provide for the student to graduate from high school is not included in the calculation of a high school's graduation rate.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill could potentially increase a school graduation rate by excluding from the calculation special education students whose individualized education program does not provide for the student to graduate. Currently, special education students that do not meet the qualifications for a diploma receive a Special Education Certificate. The number of certificates has varied between 800 and 1,162 over the last seven years. The exclusion of the students would increase the graduation rate by about 1% statewide.

The bill could reduce school corporation expenditures if the change in the graduation rate calculation allowed the school to make adequate yearly progress under the federal No Child Left Behind statute. The impact would probably be minor.

Background: The following information was reported by DOE.

2008 State Graduation Rate Breakdown

- 77.8% of students graduated within four years
- 10.3% of students were reported to be dropouts or undetermined (meaning they either moved out of state or dropped out without formally withdrawing from school)
- 8.4% of students were still in school
- 1.6% of students earned a General Education Development Diploma (GED)
- 1.2% of students earned a Special Education Certificate
- 0.6% of students earned a non-diploma Course Completion Certificate

2008 Public High School Graduation Rate Breakdown

- 90-100% graduation rate – 54 schools (14.8%)
- 80-89.9% graduation rate – 162 schools (44.5%)
- 70-79.9% graduation rate – 90 schools (24.7%)
- 60-69.9% graduation rate – 31 schools (8.5%)
- 50-59.9% graduation rate – 7 schools (1.9%)
- Less than 50% graduation rate – 20 schools (5.5%)

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Local schools.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.